6/16/73

Dear Milt,

Enclosed is a copy of my letter to Warren concerning my letter to you.

I gather that you enjoyed my letter to you. I called your office on Friday to discuss it with you but you were out. There is no urgency about this and if you want to discuss it via letter its OK with me.

Do you think I was polite enough in dealing with "America's Numismatic Bullshiter" (Breen) in my letter? I never thought of him in this light until I went to the archives myself and compared what he had written. I have gotten to the point where I question everything he has written not only on Half Cents but the other denominations as well. There is a VERY fertile field for large cent collectors, in the Archives, to do ORIGINAL research. The Gold and Silver records are extensive and much could be gotten from the archives but the person doing the research should have available specimens and a familiarity with them.

According to Dr Hope Hallecamper who is in charge of Record Group 104 at the archives. The only persons who have done extensive research

are Breen, Toxey, and Julian. I've Conrad what I think of Breen. Toxey did not pick up much if the Scotts Comprehensive Catalogue is any indication of what he found.

R.W. Julian is a School teacher who has probably done the most extensive work. However, He does not have an extensive Coin Collection. He wrote to me that the only Pre 1800 Half Cent he had was a Poor and battered 1795 lettered edge which Conrad not be identified as to whether it was a CNM#1 or CNM#2. He also wrote that the cost of any trip must be measured by the Potential Paid articles which would be generated. Thus I do not feel that Julian can really devote a great deal of time to Archives Research.

In my own case being literally next door to the Archives has been an invaluable asset and like wise that I am an accountant as the Archives records are only Accounting Records. This is where Breen fell down He doesn't know a debit from a Credit and if a Journal or Ledger hit him in the face he wouldn't recognize it. I also noted that He had even made pencil notations on the Papers in the archives! I could even trace many of his well-assed guesses which

appeared in his article in the Coin Collector Journal (May - June 1954)

Well enough of this all I would write is another two pages of a tirade against "American Numismatic Bulletin" I don't have the time for such masturbation.

I note that you mentioned in your letter to Dr Lapp that you were working on an article on Newly discovered die Breaks. I'll be glad to help you and even if I've seen them I'll be glad to let you take credit for their discovery. Die Breaks are what helps nail down the PRESUMED emission sequence.

Sincerely
Roger

6-19-73

Dear Roger:

Enclosed are my notes (copy) of new books a films — new, to me, that is. Please note my home address

Sincerely

Milt.

MILTON B PFEFFER
750 KAPPOCK ST
BRONX NY 10463

1804 CMM-1, G-6 1-A

Rev. ① A break from right serif of top of F in HALF into the first A of AMERICA and possibly "exiting" through the left side of the A, towards the top.

1804 CMM-13, G-2 5-G

Rev. ① A break from the wreath leaf closest to the H of HALF (tip of this leaf) going diagonally upward to the H

② A faint, diffuse line connecting top of OF

No. ① Seems to me to be a break, definitely, ~~but very~~ but a very slow one

No. ② Could be the barest start of a break, but it could also be an arc made by the engraver for placing the legend. Note, this reverse has a center dot, indicating use of a compass. Also, it could be nothing!

1805 CAM-4, G-2 3-C

Obv. (1) The break under LIBERTY extends to border at the left. The lost millimeter is found.

(2) a break connects the right stand of 1 with the 8

Rev. (1) The reversed 2 in the denomination shows two short breaks

(a) a delta-shaped break connecting the circular part of the 2 with the diagonal member

(b) a small straight break connecting right serif (at bottom) with the diagonal

This is off out of proportion, but it shows where to look

1810

Obv. "O" in dots is recut (a repunched, partly) on lower left

1825 CMM-2, G-1, 1-A

Rev. ① The break from the point of the second star is on the right side of the coin, not on the left, as Gilbert says. [insufficient proof reading by someone]

② My specimen has a faint line through the topmost inside berry, at the bottom of the berry, and leading from the leaf at the left of the berry to the leaf at the right of the berry

1828 CMM-2, G-3 2-B

Rev. ① Faint diagonal break from the border above the right side of the N in UNITED, through the I and into the bottom of the T finally ending at the outside leaf on left side of wreath

② F in HALF is filled

1828 CMM-3, G-1 3-C

Rev. ① Start of break from bottom of leaf over the H of HALF going towards the H.

1832 CAA-1, G-2 1-A

Rev. @. Beneath the so-called accessory E there seems to be the start of another letter, or perhaps just a flaw

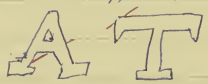
June 26, 1973

Dear Roger:

Here are some additional breaks or flaws, to be added to the list I recently sent you:

(1) 1828 CMM-2

From A of STATES to upper left serif of T



(2) 1795 CMM-5a

From bottom of U in UNITED to leaf below

(3) 1795 CMM-6a

From each side of D in UNITED to left side of S in STATES

(4) 1829 a) The "crack" Silber described through C in CENT is sometimes greater, extending slightly above the outside edge of the highest leaf, i.e., below the E of UNITED

b) There is a ~~second~~ break or flaw to the right of the ~~pow~~ common flaw through C. It can be seen above the first inside leaf (on the left) and below the first outside leaf (also on the left).

c) Small projections found on the top of the A in HALF (diagonally upward to the right) and also on the lower right serif of E in CENT (diagonally downward to the right).

(1) 1804 CM48, 9 and 10 Rev.

Break from top serif of middle member of E in STATES to top member of the E

Oddly, this break does not seem to get worse, unlike the one over R in AMERICA, which might be evidence of the fact that the die at E is flawed, rather than broken.

Sincerely,

Uwe Pfeffer

6/28/73

Dear Milton,

Listed below are die cracks + breaks which I have noted since the publication of my book. I am not including repunched letters, clash marks or die flaws all of which can be mistaken for cracks or breaks. First I will list my notes and then I will cover your lists which were in your last two letters

1793 CMM #1 - Irregular crack from the top of the right upright of M in AMERICA to head above upright of E in the same word. - REVERSE

1794 CMM #2a. - Rim break ~~made~~ which eliminates part of denticles over ER in LIBERTY - OBVERSE

1794 CMM #4 - Reverse. ① Crack from rim through space between TE of UNITED, touching the left foot of E, to wreath. ② Crack from rim through right top of M in AMERICA to berry in wreath.

1794 CMM #6 - obverse. Bowlsbin Catalogue reports die crack (bulge) "BORDER beyond 4 to bust" I have not seen this.

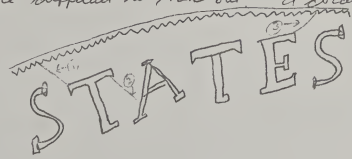
1794 CMM #8 - Reverse. I have seen die break reported by Gilbert

1794 CMM #9 Obverse. Crack through top of IBERTY ending in field to right of Y.

1795 CMM #1 Obverse I have specimen which exhibits the crack reported by Gilbert (may even be same coin) However I believe it to be damage to coin.

1797 CMM #1 Reverse. Die crack reported by Gilbert which I describe for CMM #2 has been seen on CMM #1

1802 CMM #2 Obverse. Crack from lower left foot of B in LIBERTY to rim. Reverse (1) Crack from tip of UPPER left scrip of T in ~~State~~ STATES to Rim (2) Crack from lower tip of upper Right Scrip of T in STATES to lower Point of Left stand of A in STATES (3) Crack from upper Right Scrip of E in ~~St~~ STATES To Rim. I believe there are other breaks but due to the irregular surface on most 1802's they are difficult to make out I'll draw it



Thus a lousey artist !!

1803 Cmm #2 Reverse. Line Crack from Numeral 2 in fraction accross tops of UNITED to first S in STATES

1803 Cmm #3 (2ND USE) obverse. Irregular Crack from Hair knot to rim at 10 O'Clock.

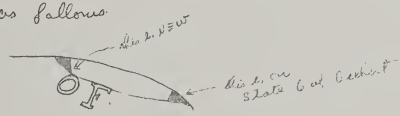
1804 Cmm #1 (2ND USE) Obverse slight line Crack from B to E in LIBERTY Reverse Heavy Irregular Crack from F of Half to left foot of A in AMERICA

1804 Cmm #2 Obverse ① Crack from 4 in date through knot and branching to rim above knot. This is seen also on Cmm #4 but in a less advanced stage - This proving that Cmm #2 was struck AFTER Cmm #4. this crack continues from the branch following the rim to just before Y in LIBERTY where it joins Rim ② Another Crack, Never seen on Cmm #4, from top of R in LIBERTY through tops OF T and Y where it joins the rim. Reverse Fan like core Crack seem in intermediate state between ~~1803~~ 2 dies as 1803 Cmm #3 + 2nd use of Cmm #1 of 1804

1804 Cmm #4 Obverse - as Noted on Cmm #2 ~~Obverse~~ Reverse - on some specimens I have seen the beginning of the diagonal Crack which is so prominent on Cmm #5

1804 CMM #5 Reverse - (1) Small rim breaks at STATES
(2) crack from bottom foot of F of OF to wreath immediately below
(3) a further extension of the crack from N of UNITED to the D.
(4) two line cracks from R + M of AMERICA to the rim

1804 CMM #6 - Reverse - a further crack and break on Gilbert state 8 as follows.



1804 CMM #9 - Obverse - Crack from 4 in date through bust to rim

1805 CMM #3 - obverse - two irregular cracks from between T + Y of LIBERTY to rim denticles

1805 CMM #4 - Reverse - Hillyer Bidder sale reports rim break over space between F + A

1807 CMM #1 - obverse - irregular crack from top of O in date through 7 to bust.

1808 CMM #1 - Reverse - a new specimen of the variety in UF-20 condition has been found. I have seen a presently of it there are even more cracks than show on the one illustrated in the book. The variety is now R-7 with 4 specimens known

1808 CMM #3 - Reverse - Crack reported by Gilbert has been seen by me.

1809 CMM #6 - Reverse - Crack through tops of STATES

1811 CMM #2 - Reverse - (1) Crack from left end of shock to ~~tooth~~ left below C in CENT. (2) Crack connecting tops of OF

1828 CMM #2 - Reverse - Crack from rim diagonally through I in UNITED to wreath.

1832 CMM #1 - Reverse. - The die flaw identified in my book is a crack I have seen specimens with a pronounced crack.

Thus ends my list. The items you sent me I have not checked out thoroughly as my best collection is in a safe deposit box. I will however check these out shortly

Sincerely
Roger

1 Gramercy Park
NY NY
10022

July 2, 1973

Dear Roger

Your letter of 6-28-73 arrived today, after I sent you another addition.

After reading your notes and taking another look at my specimens, I can confirm the following breaks which eludes me:

1797 CMM-1. My break, which is very faint is at the border above I of UNITED and extends to top of N, but not beyond. Do you think the break starts at that point (above I)? Or perhaps my coin is good for you to show the rest of it. (I grade my coin as $\frac{12}{6}$)

1802 CMM-2. I can see crack from lower left foot of B in LIBERTY going straight up towards rim. I can also see the reverse crack from top of upper right serif of T in STATES to lower part of A. My coin is too rough to see the other cracks you mention

1804 CMM-1. I also noticed the reverse break, and wrote you to you about it.

1804 CMM-5 I can see part of the break from bottom of F (OF) towards wreath, but too much wear prevents my seeing the rest of it

1804 CMM-6 I have the crack only over O of OF, but not the break-out

1808-CMM-3
1828 CMM-2 } I wrote to you about these.

1832 CMM-1. I have this. The break is so clean-cut and thin that it looks as if the die had been cut with a knife.

I don't have the following coins, so I can't comment on your findings: 1793 CMM-1; 1794 CMM 2a, and CMM-6 and CMM-9; 1803 CMM-2; 1804 CMM 2 and CMM-4; 1805 CMM-3; 1808 CMM-1.

I <u>cannot</u> find the breaks you describe on the following: 1794 CMM-4; 1795 CMM-1; 1803 CMM-3; 1804 CMM-9; 1805 CMM-4; 1807 CMM-1; and 1811 CMM-2

Lastly, the reverse breaks mentioned by Silbert for 1794 CMM-8 can also be seen on my specimen, and a lot of wear can also be seen!

<u>About the 1804's</u>: W K. Raymond of Riverside, Calif., has a lot of information about the sequence for this year. He wrote to me some time ago saying (in substance) that there were a lot of interrupted die marriages followed by remarriages, making it very hard to figure out the sequence. I am anxious to learn from you whether you find a break on the 1804 CMM 13 reverse between the H of HALF and the leaf to the left.

Sincerely
Mike

MILTON B. PFEFFER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
ONE EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022
212 MURRAY HILL 8-8880

September 12, 1973

also comment on Del Rosario ordinal
See [illegible]

Dear Roger,

I hope you had an enjoyable summer. I took a month off, and was able to do a lot of relaxing. I went to Boston for the first day of the ANA convention, but had to return to NYC the same day. I was very sorry to have to miss the EAC meeting there.

While in Boston, I picked up ~~a~~ 1795 CMM 2a, at last. I have it graded as a 30 coin. The planchet is unusually nice. A more conservative grader would take it down at least 5 points. I hope looking at it, like a child with a new toy. And a new article results, which is enclosed.

Do you remember you once asked me if I knew the whereabouts of Howard Hagelcorn? I ran into him at the ANS library a few weeks ago. He works at the Commodity Exchange in NYC and his home address (& phone number) is: 595 GRENVILLE AVE., TEANECK, N.J., 07666. (201) 836-6293

I have a question to ask you about the 1809 CMM 6 and CMM 3. My CMM 6 is very nicely sharp. In examining the obverse, I thought at first that I saw a very clear break at the neck above the curl, extending towards the right, into the hair (but not beyond), and reaching to the level of the 4th star on the right. But something

about it just does not look like a brick. Then I found the same sort of thing on the CMM3. Only here my coin, even though it is supposed to be same. (Ex Mayflower sale 5-26-73 Lot 41; and Miles sale Lot 31) is very weakly struck, so it is hard to make an exact comparison.

Since these coins have two different obverses, I wonder if we have a hub defect here.

Sorry to load you up with all these queries, Roger, but I feel that I am not really imposing upon you.

Sincerely,

Mike

P.S. If you have the Alvord catalogue, I'd like very much to borrow it MBP

THE 1795 G-3, CMM-2a HALF CENT

By Milton B. Pfeffer

The coin is called the Lettered Edge, Punctuated Date. Occasionally, additional "punctuation" is referred to, that is, the period after AMERICA, on the reverse.

The so-called period is no more a punctuation mark than the comma, which is immediately recognized as a slip of the graving tool. On some fairly worn specimens of this variety the period appears to be a round dot. But on higher grade coins it is seen to be a short, downward line somewhat thicker at the top than at the bottom. It is also a little too weak to have been a part of the reverse design. If any intent was present, it was made by the engraver as a guide mark in punching the letters of the legend. Or else, it too may only be a slip of the cutting tool, or nothing more than a tiny chip out of the die.

A similar mark will be found on the obverse of this coin, to the right of the T in LIBERTY; and I am not now referring to the "period shape defect" that Gilbert noted, at the top of the I and the R. On worn specimens (such as the ANS coin), the mark to the right of the T also looks like a dot, but on sharper specimens, one can see quite clearly that it is a short, vertical line, which is somewhat wider at the bottom than at the top. Again, one may speculate whether these defects (above the I, above the R, and to the right of T) were intentionally created during the die preparation process, or were accidentally caused, or are merely the result of inherent vice in the die.

The letter N in UNITED draws special attention because the upper right serif shows some imperfection in the punch or recutting of the die. Most of the upper part of the serif exhibits some extra thickness, which is not found in the rest of the serif, or in the corresponding lower left serif.

Another oddity appears at the bow. What looks like an extra bit of stem will be found under the right loop of the bow, where it meets the left loop.

Except for one failing, this coin would be ideal for type collectors looking for an example of the 1794-1797 half cent: it is usually found on a good flan; it has an interesting lettered edge; and the punctuated date lends additional appeal that an ordinary coin in a type set lacks. The one drawback is a serious reverse die sinking, causing a weakness in the center of the coin, both reverse and obverse. Even a solid V F specimen cannot escape the genetic curse, and it will have weak hair lines and a weak HALF CENT.

That failing, however, may save the coin from being sentenced to imprisonment in a type set, and will thereby assure it of a cordial welcome from variety collectors. Here, as in other areas of life, birth defects are not all that important.

The same reverse die was used to strike the 1795 G-1, CMM-1 (Lettered Edge, with Pole). There, it shows the same blemishes as in G-3, except for the reverse weakness. This helps establish the fact that G-1 was struck before G-3.

The 1795 Lettered Edge, Punctuated Date, also has implications for the large cent collector, because the same dies that were used to strike it were also used to strike the 1795 Plain Edge, Punctuated Date (G-8, CMM-2b). The same thing happened to a 1795 large cent. There is a lettered edge variety (S-76a) and a plain edge variety (S-76b), both struck from the same dies. Since the weight of the cent and half cent were officially reduced that year, the assumption is that the dies were in the press when the directive changing the weight of the coins became effective.

If this assumption is correct, we learn something about the operation of the Mint in 1795. First of all, these large cents and half cents were struck simultaneously, using different presses. Next, only two presses were used for copper coinage, at that time, because if there were a third, we would have a third copper coin having both a lettered edge and a plain edge, and struck from the same dies. Also, there probably were different pressmen for large cents and half cents.

The relative scarcity of these coins also presents an interesting problem. The large cent lettered edge (S-76a) is rare and the plain edge (S-76b) is not. The opposite is true for the half cent. The lettered edge (G-3) is relatively common, but the plain edge (G-8) is quite scarce. How can that be explained?

It has sometimes been said that S-76a is rare because it was re-melted at the Mint before being released to the public, and was restruck as S-76b, thereby securing a greater number of coins from the same amount of copper. Can we accept this where the half cent rarity is so different? Why should the Mint have melted down the S-76a cents but not the G-3 half cents?

There is another, and simpler possibility, namely, that the striking of S-76a had only just started when the change in weight was ordered, whereas G-3 had long been in production and was about to be phased out, because of the reverse warping, when the change-of-weight directive was made.

So, the 1795 G-3 half cent is a most interesting coin. Fortunately, it is common enough - R3 - especially in lower grades, to be available at one's pleasure. In grades over 45, however, the collector must do more than just whistle for it.

PFEFFER
1 East 57th St.
NY NY
10022

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Yours

[illegible]

MILTON B. PFEFFER
ATTORNEY AT LAW
ONE EAST 57TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y. 10022

212 MURRAY HILL 8-8880

10-1-73

Roger -

Thank you very much for the Wood catalogue. I received it.

The accompanying material is just great. Of course, I only scanned your article and letter quickly. For such a feast, I need time to digest each morsel.

I'll write to you in detail, later.

Again, thanks

Sincerely,
Milt

750 Kappock St.
Bronx, N.Y., 10463
October 5, 1973

Dear Roger:

First of all, I mailed back to you the Alvord catalogue, so you should have it by now. If not, it's time to cry a lot!

Your discussion about the 1809-1811 half-dollars is a very important point. I really think you should write it up in the form of an article for P-W. I can't recall any discussion of half cent hub-defects, except one passing reference by Walter Breen in P-W, some years ago, to (1) a small triangular defect near the sun in the 1849-1857 series and (2) some reverse defect that I can't recall at the moment. But this 1809-1811 defect is of much greater interest. The concentric circles defect escaped me entirely. I'll have to get my coins out of the bank soon and study them some more. I'll write to you again about this. I'm not sure which my coins grade high enough to permit significant comparisons. It's a great shame that the ANS specimens for the half cent series are not as strong as for the large cent series. But, I'll try to check them, as well.

Your article on Rarity and Condition Census should get a big reception. I have incorporated the information into my own notes for ready reference. Incidentally, I am working on a new invention

for such articles: it will allow collectors to get the information, but it will filter out the data when read by a dealer. Unfortunately, I haven't yet perfected the device.

I am now in the process of collecting condition census information from catalogues in the ANS library. It's a slow process, because I can only get to the library for a few hours on Saturdays. They are not open in the evenings. What I have so far, bears out your report, but here and there I find some differences that will interest you. My biggest problem is that I cannot co-ordinate the individual sales, unless the catalogue itself identifies the coin, that is, its previous owners.

You really ought to see my notes, next time we get together. The next EAC annual meeting may be a good opportunity. I'd also welcome the opportunity for you to look at my coins. An owner can't be clinical in grading his own coins. (To some people, every duck is a swan.) It takes a third person to look at them dispassionately.

About the 1804 CAM 13, I don't know what you mean when you say that the reverse "is a reported die." It is the same reverse as 1804 CAM 12 because it has the scratch from E in UNITED to the leaf.

I appreciate your comments on the different die breaks and flaws and so forth. If I get any responses from EAC

members, I'll put all the information together, so we can have it in a convenient form.

My 1795 CMM 2a article has been revised slightly, at Walter Zapp's request, and will appear in the 11-15-73 issue of P-W. I'll send you the revised copy as soon as I get it from the typist.

I am looking forward to the Ruby catalogue. It will help the condition census project, a lot, if it provides the pedigree for his coins. I wonder if Dennis Tonsing is preparing the half cent portion of the catalogue.

By the way, I read the Anderson-Dugan catalogue recently. Do you know whether Dr Hoblitzelle also wrote up the half cent coins, as well as the large cents? From the way it is set up, with bid values and numerical grading, I suspect he did it.

Sincerely,
Walt

[illegible]
[illegible] MONTGOMERY LANE
[illegible], MD. [illegible]

[illegible]/10/73

Dear Walt,

Yes the above Catalogue covered Dafo + Sorel. I'm currently trying to get the original. The plates are almost unbelievable. They are done on a rotogravure and you can see every nick and scratch on the coin.

I would like to see your collection and notes likewise I would like show you my collection and notes. I don't know if the annual EAC meeting would be a good time time to view each others notes. I have had such sessions with other Half Cent Collectors and find it takes about 2 days to go over everything. Would you be interested in visiting me some week end before Jan 1? I could pick you up at the Train station. I've found the Metrolinks very convenient.

We have hubs going to the 1809 - 1811 hub as of interest and could make an interesting article. Some day when I get the time!!!. Also the 1804 stemless reverse. After looking at these (after your comments) I think there may be 2 stemless reverses prepared from the same HUBS 1 HUB had the wreath, the words ~~Half Cent~~ HALF CENT, and ~~the~~ possibly Fraction the other Hub had the words UNITED STATES OF AMERICA and possibly the fraction. The line from the wreath to the E in UNITED was possibly a ~~gu~~ guide and where to place the lettering hub. The center dot was used for laying out the positions of the lettering hub. I really don't know but it's going to take some studies. [illegible]

Used for 1804 CMM #12, 1805 CMM #1 and 1806 CMM #1 the other die was only used on 1804 CMM #13. This is however at the point all conjecture. Now, when I get the time .....

Just to mention another die flaw I noticed the reverse of 1809 CMM #5 has a ~~round~~ round dot like defect below the final A in AMERICA. I first noticed it on an UNC specimen I have. I then checked my other specimens and could find it on all until I got to very worn specimens.

The Ruby Collection on Hoard of Half Cents showed he of some interest. There are some unusual specimens such as 1795 CMM #6a stuck over a 1795 Half Dollar half piece (I know of at least 3 others). There are also such items as an 1802 (Reverse of 1800) CMM #1 + a 1797 CMM #30 and the finest known VF-35 1805 CMM #2. There are 2 1796 CMM #1 plus a number of other items. On the whole however Ruby Collection is in very low grade even for the common dates. I got a list of what was in the Collection. For example 63 examples of 1802 CMM #2 the highest one was 15. Two of the 5 1796 CMM #2's were forgeries. Ruby wrote me about these some time ago. Frankly I want to see just what Superior is going to do with the Collection I don't even know who is going to catalogue it but my guess is

that Walter Breen will do it. It should be intirely as ~~the~~ Breen now catalogues by Collect Number only. He ignores My Numbers and can't use his Numbers due to John Fonds ownership of his Manuscript. Breen will probably write as he did for the recent sale by Superior.

The Anderson-Dupont Collection was written by Walter Not Dr Sheldon. This was a time when Walter was young and not so set in his ways. From My Viewpoint the Catalogues was excellent. The Collection was also exceptional

This is all for now let me know about your some weekend if convenient for you

Sincerely

Roger

THE 1795 G-3, CMM-2a HALF CENT (Revised)

By Milton B. Pfeffer

The 1795 G-3, CMM-2a half cent was referred to by Ebenezer Gilbert as the "Lettered Edge with Pole, Punctuated Date" variety. The "punctuation" is a mark resembling a comma, between the 1 and 7 in the date. Occasionally, additional "punctuation" is referred to, namely, a period after AMERICA, to identify the reverse die. Thus, both dies have diagnostic "punctuation" marks that distinguish them from all other half cent dies.

Of course, neither the comma nor the period are true punctuation marks. The comma is immediately recognized as a slip of the graving tool. The period looks like a dot only on low grade specimens. If the coin is not too worn, the "period" is seen to be a very short, downward line, somewhat thicker at the top than at the bottom. The mark is also a little too weak to have been intended to be a part of the reverse design. Perhaps it was made by the engraver as a guide mark in punching the letters of the legend. Then, too, it could have been caused by a slip of the cutting tool, or it could have resulted from a tiny chip out of the die.

Coming back to the obverse, the letters I and R in LIBERTY have what Gilbert called a "period shape defect" at their tops. Roger Cohen suggests they might be guide marks used by the die cutter. In addition to the defects, over I and R, there is still another die defect in the same area. To the right of the T in LIBERTY there is a mark roughly similar to the "period" after AMERICA on the reverse, only now the short line is somewhat wider at the bottom than at the top, and it is more vertical than the reverse mark. Again, on worn specimens of this variety (such as the ANS coin), the mark looks like a dot, but it is not.

Once again one may speculate whether these defects (above the I, above the R, and to the right of T) were intentionally created during the die preparation process, or were accidentally caused, or were merely the result of an imperfection in the die, which could not be polished away.

The letter N in UNITED draws one's special attention. The upper right serif shows either an imperfection in the punch or a recutting of the die. Most of the upper part of the serif exhibits some extra thickness, which is not found in the rest of the serif or in the corresponding lower left serif.

Another oddity appears at the bow, where an extra bit of stem will be found under the right loop of the bow at its junction with the left loop.

This particular variety would be ideal for type collectors looking for an example of the 1794-1797 half cent since it is usually found on a good flan, it has an interesting lettered edge, and the punctuated date lends additional appeal, which an ordinary coin in a type set lacks. The one drawback it has is a serious reverse die sinking, which results in a weakness in the center of the coin, both reverse and obverse. Even a solid V F specimen cannot escape the genetic curse, and it will have weak hair lines and a weakly defined HALF CENT. That failing, however, may have saved the variety from being sentenced to imprisonment in a type set, and has assured it of a cordial welcome from variety collectors. Here, as in other areas of life, birth defects are not all that important. PLANCHET!!

The same reverse die was used to strike the 1795 G-1, CMM-1(Lettered Edge, with Pole) half cent. There, it shows the same blemishes as in G-3, except for the reverse weakness. This helps establish the fact that G-1 was struck before G-3.

The 1795 Lettered Edge with Pole, Punctuated Date, half cent also has implications for the large cent collector, because the same dies that were used to strike G-3, CMM-2a were also used to strike the plain edge variety, G-8, CMM-2b. The same thing is found in the 1795 large cent varieties: there is a lettered edge variety (S-76a) and a plain edge variety (S-76b), both of which were struck from the same dies. Since the weight of the cent and half cent were officially reduced in 1795, the assumption is that the directive changing the weight of the coins became effective when the dies were in the press. If this assumption is correct, we learn something about the operation of the Mint in 1795. First of all, some large cents and half cents were struck simultaneously, using different presses. Secondly, only two presses were used for

copper coinage at that time. If there were a third press in operation then, we should have a third copper coin having both a lettered edge and a plain edge and struck from the same dies. Thirdly, there probably were different pressmen for large cents and half cents.

The relative scarcity of these coins also presents an interesting problem. The S-76a large cent with the lettered edge is rare, but the S-76b plain edge is not. The opposite is true for the half cent. The lettered edge (G-3) is much more often found than the plain edge (G-8). How can this be explained? It has sometimes been said that the S-76a's are rare because they were re-melted at the Mint, having been held up from release to the public; and were restruck as S-76b's, thereby securing a greater number of coins from the same amount of copper. Can we accept this explanation, where the rarity of the half cent varieties is so different? Why should the Mint have melted down the S-76a cents but not the G-3 half cents?

There is another and simpler possibility: the striking of S-76a had only just started when the change in weight was ordered, whereas G-3 at that time had already long been in production and was about to be phased out because of the reverse warping.

Hence, the 1795 G-3 half cent is a most interesting variety. Fortunately, it is common enough -- R3 -- especially in lower grades to be available at one's pleasure. In grades over 45, however, one must do more than just whistle for it.

Uncirculated specimens, for example, very rarely appear in auction catalogues. The Brobston coin is said to be uncirculated and perhaps the finest known. The Alvord coin is also said to be uncirculated; and the George E. Chattilon sale (B. Max Mehl, November 15, 1938, lot 1636) offered one that was said to be similar to the specimen in the Alvord collection. Lastly, one other coin described as uncirculated, was offered in the May, 1970 Catalogue (No. 5) of Hathaway and Bowers Gillenes, Inc. I am sorry to say I have not seen any of these coins, and therefore cannot attempt a Sheldon grading.

The Hillyer Ryder coin (New Netherlands, 1954 sale, lot 269) is strictly graded as V F 30, judging from the plate; and the R.L. Miles, Jr. coin (Stack's 1969 sale, lot 4) was graded as V F.

I judge that the condition census specimens are in the 65 to 55 area, give or take five points. The R3 rating that this variety has is apt to lead one into assuming that higher grade specimens (40 and above) are offered for sale about as often as the more worn specimens. Such an assumption is quite erroneous. A survey of auction catalogues and fixed price lists will prove it so.

HALF CENTS: 1794, 1795 and 1797 REVISITED

By Milton B. Pfeffer

The emission sequence debate for 1794, 1795 and 1797 brought a number of ideas to the surface, which, no doubt, had lain submerged for years. These ideas will have to be studied in the light of the most recent die state findings, if we succeed in assembling them. A few things struck me, which might be mentioned, now.

1794

The sequences worked out by Walter Breen and Roger Cohen are much more similar than dissimilar. They differ in their placement of only two varieties, that is, G-7, CMM-3 and G-4, CMM-4. Even here, they agree that the two varieties follow each other in that order. Walter, however, puts them after G-6, CMM-6, while Roger has them follow G-5, CMM-2.

There seems to be general agreement that the large edge lettering preceded the small edge lettering; and that the large lettered edges came near the start of the year's coinage.

If one takes the trouble to "translate" George R. Ross' die designations into Gilbert variety numbers, one finds that Ross' sequence is the same as that of Walter Breen, who independently arrived at it a generation later, and not entirely for the same reasons.

BREEN COPIED ROSS !!

1795

The comments for this year were nearly unanimous in stating that, based on die break evidence, the thick and thin planchet specimens of G-5, CMM-6a and 6b, and G-6, CMM-5a and 5b were apparently struck together, indiscriminately; and that contrary to what I had suggested, the thick flan specimens are not confined to the earlier period of time before the weight of the half cent was changed from 104 grains to 84 grains.

PLANCHET

If this is so, what explains the striking of the even heavier 115 grain coins, in apparent violation of Presidential order? There is no evidence of the existence of any groups within the Mint that was opposed to the change and

so might have resisted it. Nor can frugality be argued by suggesting that the Mint wanted to "use up" its supply of flans. That would have been waste, not frugality; and in these days when overweight silver and gold coins were literally filed down to remove a few grains of metal, I doubt whether the grossly overweight copper planchets would have been used, officially.

Should we not consider the possibility of a surreptitious taking of these flans by workmen (after they had been put aside in favor of the thin flans), who then used the 3C and 3D dies, which were in the press at the time of the taking, for their private activities? The thicker coins are rare enough (R5 and R7) to allow such speculation.

The morality that existed at the Mint in those days is illustrated in Don Taxay's account of Henry Voight's use of a government horse to go off on a junket, without leave, ostensibly in search of copper (U.S. Mint and Mintage, 1966, page 122). Voight offered an ingenious excuse to Elias Boudinot, the Director of the Mint, who felt such behavior was "ruinous to the discipline necessary to be kept up in the Mint." Voight's explanation was that he took the horse, rather than the public stagecoach, since the horse would be put out to pasture when he reached his destination, and this was good for the health of the horse. By equivalent reasoning, a striking of coins for one's own pocket may be regarded as good for the coinage presses, because disuse leads to rusting and deterioration.

If this seems far removed from reality, consider some of the unofficial restrikes (a marvelous euphemism) at the Mint in the middle 1800's.

1797

By unanimous decision: a mess.

TO QUOTE TETTENHORST
"EMISSION IMPOSSIBLE"

The 1803 Mystery Half Cents

By Walter B. Pfeiffer

The 1803 half cent varieties have never attracted much attention. The house does combining with four reverse dies produced four varieties — two common (C-2, MM-1 and C-3 (MM-3), two scarcer (C-4, (MM-2 and C-1, (MM-4).

They somehow seem lackluster, falling between 1802 and 1804, these varieties are always very discounted. There are however two mystery 1803 overdated half cents, which (if they really exist) would add a lot of life to the 1803 varieties.

1 S. H. Chapman, William Sleicher Sale, 1919, lot 1195 described as: "1803 Over 1800. Small 3 inverted on last 0. Rev. 1 of 1802. Unique. I never saw this before and it is not given in Gilbert-Elder. Good, with some corrosion spots on obv."

2 Thomas L. Elder, Public Auction Sale XIII, 1907, lot 101, described as "1803, over '02. Fine and rare"

It would be most interesting to locate these very rare and re-discover them.

The Elder coin is the most astounding. No 1802

diverse US itself an redate, 1902 — or 1800 If Mr Elder's observation was accurate, it would mean that the die was redated <u>twice</u>. I am not sure that this was technically possible. Of course, it is also possible that a second 1902-diverse die existed, which had not been previously redated.

The Chapman coin may be merely one of the few famous varieties in damaged condition, with a low-grade, corroded coin. Mr Chapman could easily have misinterpreted the final digit of the date.

However, the fact remains that Messrs S.H. Chapman and T.L Elder — were both knowledgeable and careful observers. It would be well for us to keep an eye out for possible 1902 dry cent redates.

Revised draft
10-24-73

10-25-73
Dear Roger:
I'm still spinning my wheels!
Walt

Are There 1803 Overdated Half Cents?

By Walter B. Pfeiffer

The 1803 half cent varieties never attracted much attention. They seem problem-free. Two obverse dies combined with four reverse dies to produce four varieties, two being ~~common~~ common (G-2, CMM-1 and G-3, CMM-3), and two ~~uncommon~~ not common (G-4, CMM-2 and G-1, CMM-4). ~~Lodged~~ Lodged between the much discussed varieties of 1802 and 1804, the 1803's seem lackluster by comparison.

This could change quickly and dramatically if two, long-forgotten reports of 1803 overdates are accurate. I refer to:

(1) Thomas L. Elder's Public Auction Sale XIII, 1907, where lot 101 was described as: "1803, over '02. Fine and rare."

(2) S. H. Chapman's sale of the William Sleicher collection in 1919, where the description given for lot 1185 is: "1803 Over 1800. Small 3 inverted on last 0. Rev. 1 of 1802. Unique. I never saw this before and it is not given in Gilbert-Elder. Good, with some corrosion spots on obv."

Unfortunately, the two catalogues were without photos for these coins. Does any one know where they are now? It would be most interesting to re-examine them.

The Elder coin is the more astonishing of the two because the only 1802 obverse known at present is, itself, an overdate (1802 over 1800). Thus, if Mr. Elder's ~~observation~~ observation is free from error, it means that this die was overdated twice. I am not certain if ~~this~~ that would have been possible (or practical) once the die had been tempered and subjected to the stresses of the coinage press. Of course, there might have been a second 1802 obverse die, not known to us at present, which was not an overdate.

The Chapman coin may merely be one of the four 1803 varieties (or 1802 G-1, C-1 & 1-2) in a damaged condition. Since Mr. Chapman had in his hands a low-grade, corroded coin, he could easily have misinterpreted the final digit of the date.

Yet, the fact remains that Messrs. Chapman and Elder were both numismatists of the first water. More than that, Elder (like Gilbert) had a special fondness for the half cents. One cannot lightly dismiss their findings as judgmental errors. It would be well, then, to keep an eye open for possible 1803 half cent overdates.

October 21, 1973

Dear Roger:

I thank you very much for the invitation. A two-day session sounds great to me. I'll see what I can do to work out some alternate weekends, to give you some choice, also.

I haven't had a chance to re-check my comments for the points that you mentioned in your last two letters. There are a lot of important ideas you mentioned, and I want to be sure to go over them carefully.

It came as a surprise to me to learn that the Ruby holy cards were generally in low grade. I suppose his range of coins was so wide that having high grade holy cards was not as important as some of his other goals. Nevertheless, some of the "edge" has been taken out of the Sale, as far as I'm concerned.

I spent the last two Saturdays at the ANS library, reviewing catalogues. It's a long process, and while I have a long way to go, I find that I collected a good deal of information already. It's distressing that some of the older "key" catalogues have disappeared. I'm going to have to check the N.Y. Public Library, as well.

It's already apparent to ~~to~~ me that the catalogue information tells only half the story. It will have to be supplemented by the personal recollections of knowledgeable

collectors. In the meantime, I'm really enjoying myself collecting the data.

The one thing that bothers me is seeing the ridiculously low prices at which the super-rarities could have been bought 20 or so years ago. What a pity that we didn't know then what we know now! I know that's not an original thought, but I think it every Saturday, about 30 times, at least.

Sincerely,

Mike

750 Kappock Street
Bronx, N.Y. 10463
October 29, 1973

Dear Roger:

I finally got a chance to look over my coins, again.

First of all, concerning the 1809 Cent-5, the round dot below the final A of AMERICA is definitely there. I ignored it as just another little handling mark peculiar to the coin rather than the die. That was keen spotting on your part.

Next, the 1809-1811 hub defects: I can see ~~the~~ on Cent-4, 6, 2 and 3, but not on Cent 1 and 5. I mean the line from neck to curl. My #1 is so worn that I am satisfied just to see the coin. But #5 is absolutely unc., though a weakish strike, especially the obverse where many of the stars lack centers. I see no trace of the line. Concerning the concentric circles, I don't see these at all. I'll have to wait until I show them to you, I suppose.

My 1810, which is not very prepossessing, does not show any of the hub defects, ~~nor~~ nor do the two 1811's, which are F coins.

Sincerely,
Chuck

11/18/73

Dear Walt,

We really got fouled quite a bit in the 11/15/73 Penny-Wise. Interestingly enough my original letter to Walter Breen was not intended to be published in P.W. I originally sent the letter to him in early September and as with my other letters to him, I received no answer. I was quite surprised when Dr Lapp called me and asked my permission to publish my letter to Breen. It was only then that I even knew Breen had answered a letter of mine. I think Dr Lapp did a good job where he put it in P.W. I don't plan to answer Breens answer to me as it can only lead to petty squabbling which will only be amusing to others and will not further the study of Half Cents. Walter got into such an embroilment with Al Overton over Half Dollars on the Pages of the Coin World a number of years ago. I don't want to do this. I think that EAC has heard the last from Breen for some time unless he leaves the employment of Applebaum.

In your library research have you come across the Eaton Sale? This took place in 1929 but I don't know who the ~~seller~~ auctioneer was. I don't have a copy of this and I wonder what the Commodore had in his Collection. I know

of a few Coins 1802 G-2, 1795 G-7, but that's all. Perhaps some of his Coins went to Brockton. Another thing I heard was that Brockton formed a Number of Half Cent Collectors and would sell off a Number of Specimens at Various times. What do you know about this?

When do you plan to visit me? Unless you can make it before January 1 it will have to be after May 1. I'm so busy from Jan 1 to May 1 I'd just have to turn off my Collectors. I'm looking forward to your visit

Sincerely
Roger

Nov 21, 1973

Dear Roger:

I think you're right in letting the exchange of letters with Breen rest for the time being. Besides, it's now up to him to refer you to some specific example of a 1797 6-3 without reverse break.

About the Comm. W.C. Eaton collection, several months ago I checked the A.N.S. library index and could find no such sale. They index catalogues by owner and by dealer. The "owner cards" show no such catalogue. If you could guess at the dealer, I'll check again. The chances are that his collection was sold at a private sale. I ran across a few coins that came from his collection and that's when I tried to find a catalogue for him, without success.

Two of his coins that come to mind are the 1804 6-9, your #7 and 1804 6-10, your #4. Both came from Stack's, Anderson-Dugand sale of 1954. I am sure there are others, but until I organize my notes, I can't point them out. I did look through my notes for the 1802 6-2 and 1795 6-7. The 250-or-so catalogues that I looked at did not trace any of these varieties to him.

As I write up each variety (in a short way), I'll send you a ~~copy~~ copy. But the notes as a whole will have to wait for some time when we can get together. Right now it does not seem possible for me to see you before January, much as I'd like to. There just isn't enough time.

I found a few coins where the catalogue would say "ex Brabston" or "ex Alvord" without referring to any specific sale or lot number. In one or two instances, the difference in grading was so great that I assumed the purchase was made from Brabston or Alvord <u>privately</u>, & that the catalogues was not referring to <u>the</u> Brabston sale, or <u>the</u> Alvord sale. I have an idea that this was not an infrequent occurrence. Take yourself, for instance. I have a coin which has "ex Cohen" on the envelope, but I did not buy it at your FPL #1 sale.

I'm glad to see we're getting some "exposure" in P-W. It's about time.

Sincerely,
Mult

12-10-73

Dear Roger:

This is my summary for 1793 to 1802. There are a few uncirculated coins that I have not been able to include because I don't have access to the plate, and they were not sufficiently described in the catalogue. As soon as I have seen them, I'll supplement my notes.

In the meantime, I have quite enough work to do organizing my notes from 1803 on.

I found another reference to an Eaton coin — 1802 C9M-1 (the rare one). The 1936 catalogue of J. C. Morgenthau, for their 368th sale, under lot 434, offers a VG 1802 C9M-1 and says that "the specimens formerly in the Eaton and Alvord "collections" are the only ~~one~~ other ones known. But it does not otherwise identify Eaton's coin, or trace it.

Sincerely
Mike

12/26/73

Dear Milt,

I got your note of 11/10/73 together with your notes on the catalogues for the period 1793 - 1802. What do you plan to do with the data? You have done an enormous amount of data compiling but I am reminded somewhat of the story that John Wright tells of seeing the numbers 362436 as a date but when dashes were added it became 36-24-36 which was information.

750
Knapp St.
Bronx N.Y.
10463

To me the most important information to be gathered is provenance i.e. pedigree of the better specimens of half cents. The only person I know of who has attempted to set this down is Breen; but as usual this has been kept from others who are interested. I have of course worked on this but I am ~~in~~ not in what I consider to be a position to publish anything on it. I am in correspondence with another person who unfortunately wants to remain unknown about the pedigrees. The data which you have accumulated traces what specimens can be from the catalogues but I think there is much repetition.

Perhaps the best way to work on this is to work out a chronological list of the dates that major collections were sold. Then attempt to figure out when collections were assembled. For example I have noted that both Brockaton and Shoven both joined the ANA in 1944. Just when they started collecting I don't know but they

seemed to be made for the better specimens which appeared from that date onward to about 1960. Many of the better Halligan Byden and Anderson-Dupont specimens seem to have gone into their Collections. In 1963 when the Brookline Collection was scattered to the 4 winds Showers picked up a number of these coins. Thus since you are aware of the fact that Stack sold the Showers Collection intact in 1969 to another person who wishes to remain anonymous.

What about the time before Brookline + Showers? such as the Eaton, Aboard & Kortzahn Collections. The activities of Tom Elder who died in 1948 would be of great interest also.

I could fill in a number of places where I know of these repetitions but its going to take some time to sort them all out. Now that January 1 is here I just won't have time to go over all this with you till after May 1. In the meanwhile keep me informed of what you are doing and after the big ~~[illegible]~~ rush is over let's get together and put what information I have into your work.

Sincerely

Roger

750 Kappock St
Bronx, NY 10463
Dec. 29, 1973

Roger S. Cheek
4720 Montgomery Lane
Bethesda, Md. 20014

Dear Roger:

I have your letter of 12-26-73.

The catalogue sales ordered is going to be published in P-W, serially. Warren Tripp says the 1793-1794 portion will appear in the January 15 issue. I am giving myself a brief "vacation," and then I'll try to work up my notes for 1803 to 1835.

What I hope to accomplish from all this, is to collect additional information from others, to supplement what I was able to find out for myself. I'm pretty sure that there is a lot of repetition in the sales, and also a lot of private sales that never got into catalogues. Hopefully, we can round up a group of interested half-cent buffs (who are not concerned with keeping this sort of data secret) and by pooling all our information, we can create a "data bank."

I say "hopefully," ~~all~~ although I am not really very hopeful. A good many persons truly enjoy reading about this sort of thing, but very, very few are willing to go to the trouble of writing down their ideas. I'm sure you meant

have run up against that attitude, yourself.

I can't understand why this wasn't done long ago. It seems so natural for a collector to want to know the history of his own coin, and how it compares with what other collectors have. I find it adds a lot of enjoyment to collecting.

It is, of course, necessary to preserve a collector's desire for anonymity insofar as his collection is concerned. But that should not prevent us from tracing past history, that is, previous sales of that same coin, to learn its chain-of-title. Nor should it prevent us from describing interesting features of that coin, without disclosing its present ownership.

Well, we shall see what the next year brings.

By the way, I found another coin that belongs to Comm. Eaton: 1805 CAM-2 was also sold in the Anderson-Dupont Sale.

Have a healthy and happy New Year, Roger.

Sincerely,

Walt

750 Kappock Street,
Bronx, N.Y. 10463
February 1, 1974

Dear Roger:

A short note, just to let you know that I am proceeding very slowly with the Catalogue Sales article. I feel I am far ahead of P-W publication dates, so I can slow down on the writing, and collect more catalogue data. Unfortunately, the 1802's were written up by me before I received the Ruby catalogue.

I found something interesting with 1804 G-1, CMM-11 and G-2, CMM-13. The weak, somewhat vertical diverse crack behind the head was first seen in CMM-11. So, unless there were intervening die marriages, it would have to appear on <u>all</u> CMM-13's. The problem here is that the break is fairly faint to begin with, so one needs a sharp, high-grade example to test this theory.

I know you are very busy now, so I really don't expect an early answer from you

Sincerely
Mike

750 Kappock ST
Bronx, N.Y., 10463
February 26, 1974

Roger Glass, Jr
4720 Montgomery Lane
Bethesda, Md. 20014

Dear Roger:

Yes, there is an Eaton catalogue. Much to my surprise, I found out that Henry Chapman sold the W.C. Eaton collection in May, 1929. The catalogue consists of about 58 pages, but I can't find it anywhere in NYC. I am writing to the ANA at Colorado Springs to see if they have a copy, and if so, to send me a photostat. It sometimes takes them 2 to 3 weeks just to answer whether they have the catalogue. If I get it, I send you a copy for your file, immediately.

In his article in the Numismatist for Nov. 1921, Eaton wrote that he had over 420 half cents in his collection.

Sincerely
Will

1/28/78

Dear Milt,

I can't believe that its over but it is. Your series on catalogue data on Half Cents was an item that I looked forward to in each issue of P.W. I know I didn't help you with it as I felt that each person writing should be his own. In your project it was you who wrote your observations and I believe that the body of knowledge of Half Cents has been greatly enriched by your work. So please accept my thanks for a job well done.

Sincerely
Roger

P.S. I also apologize for omitting your name on the list of contributors to the article I did for P.W. in the present issue

750 KAPPOCK ST
BRONX NY
10463

[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
[illegible]
1/15/87

Dear Mel,

Your article in the 1/15/87 Numismatist has caused me to dig up my pen. While what I am going to write may be construed as somewhat critical of your efforts I wish to point out that much of my letter will be opinion. In no way I want to discourage you from your efforts. You contribute to the love of Half Cent, has been great. I look forward to your articles and even though I may not always agree I consider them to be a real contribution.

I presume the collection which you refer to is the SCHOENWALTER one. I have wanted to see it as a number of specimens are rather key ones. When the ~~EA~~ ANA had their convention in 1976 in N.Y. I understand Mr S. wanted to see me at the EAC meeting which I didn't attend. Gene Brosig however gave me a second hand report of what he had seen. Then some of the coins were familiar to me. I noticed in some cases your grade condition but on others you did not. I think the article would have been better if you had given them.

In your description of the coins I wish to make the following notations.

1794 C-8 (R-3) the die break you refer to is mentioned in GILBERT

1794 C-4 (G-4) The dies become heavily clashed the letter VOUSE D becomes quite prominent on the obverse. I believe the other marks you refer to are clash marks. If you will refer back to the Boston catalog in October 1985 he even made his obverse 5 from a clashed obverse 4. I believe the clashing occured frequently during the time that obverse 4 was used. I am not familiar with the die break you "couldn't quite make out" on the reverse. This die does develop line cracks

1794 C-2 (G-5) This is one coin I would really like to see!! I have a photo of it in the auction catalogue. One of the first things I note is that the obverse is NOT clashed. I have never seen another reverse with the break over OF AMO. Studying the photo it appears to be a rim break. But not strong enough to really make out the detail. I do have what I consider to be a partial or probable solution. One of my 1794's I believe to have had the edge lettering done after the coin was struck. This appears to cause raises on the rim where the letter has been struck into the edge. As before I would really like to see this coin

1794 C-5 (G-8) Here we have a strange mixture of Gilbert + my book. The emission sequence which you refer to is from my book but you use Gilbert designations. Somewhat confusing to a new collector who doesn't know Gilbert

Incidently Gilbert never made an attempt to even ~~[illegible]~~ preserve an emission sequence. The Newbury system used came from many sources. Particularly Brosbey. The Newbury system on 1794 was originally from the 1679 Frossard plate and copied by Brosbey + Stuyvesant + Gilbert. Ross made the first attempt but it was not very successfull. as is the human of clash marks on C-5 of 1794 I have specimens both clashed on the obverse only and not clashed. The fact a die is clashed is not proof positive that ~~[illegible]~~ that the clash marks were not removed. This could be done by polishing and re hardening the die. I believe this was done. The most ~~obvious~~ obvious example is the #3 obverse of 1803 and the ~~[illegible]~~ #1 reverse die of 1804.

One last notation. Just what is a "FLAN" I cant find the word in any dictionary. I do however find "PLANCHET". I strongly object to FLAN as it is a slang term which seems to have crept into numismatic language in the 1950's + 1960's -

Well that's enough bit picking for now. Would enjoy a letter from you

Sincerely
Roger

115 Broadway, Suite 800
New York, N.Y. 10006
Feb. 15, 1981

Dear Roger

You guessed the guy I was talking about! And you're the only one to have done so. I mentioned the to Bob Schoenveldt last Friday, and he even remembers the incident you refer to, about his wanting to see you at ANA '76. When I examine the balance of his coins, I'll try to grade them, as well.

1794 C-8, G-3. OOPS! Boofed again!

1794 C-4, G-4 Have you ever ~~seen~~ seen a specimen without the incuse D?

1794 C-2, G-5. If possible, I'll look at this again. There is a typographical error in my P-G article. It should read "I am now inclined to doubt..." not "I am not inclined to doubt..."

1794 C-5, G-8. The fact that you have specimens both clashed and unclashed really is a problem. I never thought of the possibility that the clash marks might have been polished away.

The word "flan" is found in the Oxford English Dictionary, the greatest English dictionary ever produced, and there the word "flan" is defined as a disk of metal before stamping; a blank. This numismatic meaning was in use as early as 1868, according to the examples given in that work. Of course, the word "planchet" is

much older, going back at least to 1611, according to the O.E.D. But the two are absolutely ~~synonymous~~ synonymous, I really do not believe there is a preferred use, so it is merely a question of personal choice or habit. I like flan because it is short and to me has a neater sound than flanchet

It was nice hearing from you again, Roger, and I hope we'll see each other, soon. I'll be at the Chicago Int'l Con Fan on its last day — Sunday; and, of course, I'll be at the New York show beginning April 2 at the brand-new Vista Hotel opening for the first time on April 1. It is in lower Manhattan, where no shows of comparable size have ever been held.

Sincerely

Walt Willis

5/19/82

Milton B. Phelps
115 Broadway.
New York NY 10006

Dear Milt,

Didn't get to talk to Neal to you last Friday. ~~So~~ Bob Schenwalds Coin were eye popping to me. I want to thank you for inviting me and Debby to dinner and I must say I enjoyed the Coin Club Meeting so much more than the usual Meeting.

The basic format of the club is excellent. a main subject, and ~~the~~ current items of interest with the world as shown by Numismatics. The participation by Members is far better than most. The judging is very well done. The close of the Meeting is excellent Not to lonely and Not to late. I must say I was impressed with the Club and the Caliber of the Members.

I will be at the New Jersey Meeting in Cherry Hill on June 26th Tom Katman is trying to get as Many Half Cent Collectors Together as possible Do you plan to attend? I believe Bob Schenwalds is. Would like to see you there

Sincerely

Roger